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OWENS KISSING GIRLS GOODBYE {page 11}

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Thursday, January 24, 2013

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

What's wrong with this picture?

As pretty as cherry blossoms look in snow, early arrival is troubling ◐ Climate change hitting region hard {page 02}

local

Tacony dungeon case: Suspects charged {page 04}

style

'Your pants look great, but those shoes?' {page 15}

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IS THERE ROOM FOR A MINI COCO? {page 09}

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Weather extremes reach new highs and new lows

Early arrival of Philly's cherry blossoms speaks to a larger problem ◗ Scientists, advocates warn of climate change after a record-setting 2012 ◗ Cities at risk with extreme weather

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Bobbie Blanding of North Philly braved the cold yesterday.

Global warming doesn't always mean 'warm'

"People say, 'It's cold out. How can you have global warming?'" said meteorologist John Bolaris. "But global warming has to do with accepting that the overall world climate is in extremes in ways we've never seen before."

He said the recent cold marked "the first arctic outbreak of our year" and comes as a shock to our systems because it's been an otherwise mild winter.

"We're in an extreme cycle for sure," he said.

"For years to come, we're going to be living in extreme cycles with explosions of superstorms."
BOLARIS

"There's blazing forest fires in Australia, severe heat, drought, so we have extreme conditions globally," he said. "When the president addressed climate change, he was very correct in saying America, going forward, has to acknowledge the change in atmosphere."

The pink sprays of Fairmount Park's cherry blossom trees are annually welcomed as a harbinger of spring. But the flowers have this year unfurled nearly two months early — signaling not a change in season, but a wild see-sawing of temperature extremes.

"We've had such weird weather," said Mindy Maslin, project manager of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Tree Tenders program. She said the shift has been so noticeable over the past few years that the USDA plant hardiness zone designation for the region has changed. "There's a lot of plant confusion going on, and it's a bad thing."

With the release last week of both the National Climate Assessment draft and the National Resources Defense Council's Extreme Weather Map, more local scientists and advocates are sounding the alarm for climate change.

"2012's unparalleled record-setting heat demonstrates what climate change looks like," said NRDC senior scientist Kim Knowlton. Though the phenomenon is often referred to as "global warming," rising mercury is only one component of the shift.

"The heavy precipitation events are increasing," said Penn State University oceanography professor and climate researcher Raymond Najjar. "This is what we expect from a warming environment. Winter storms appear to be getting stronger."

The extremes are wreaking havoc on the local ecosystem, and it makes the forecast for the cherry blossoms less than sunny.

"The trees that are blooming now, the blooms are going to get frosted off and they're not going to be able to set new blooms for the spring," Maslin said.

Why cities are so vulnerable

Cities are especially susceptible to effects of climate change, per the National Climate Assessment draft.

- Urban centers depend heavily on infrastructure systems for everything from water and electricity to transportation.
- Cities are particularly vulnerable to heat – they tend to have slightly higher temperatures than surrounding areas.
- "Many cities, including St. Louis, Philadelphia, Chicago and Cincinnati, have sustained dramatic increases in deaths following heat waves," the draft noted. But it also gave props to Philly for its heat-warning system and cooling centers.

By the numbers

5
Precipitation in the Northeast increased by 5 inches between 1895 and 2011.

2
Temperatures increased by almost 2 degrees in the same period.

1
The sea level has risen one foot since 1900. It is projected to rise 1 to 4 more feet by 2100.

$6T
An estimated $6 trillion worth of property in the Baltimore, Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Providence metropolitan areas would be exposed to coastal flooding with a 1.5-foot rise in sea level.

62
In 2012, 62 record-breaking extreme weather events were recorded in Pa.

36
A total of 36 new rainfall records were set across Pennsylvania during 2012.

21
It's not just the rain: 21 new heat records and five new snow records were set as well.

Alex Wigglesworth
awigglesworth@metro.us

In the news

$35K

At press time, the reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the death of 35-year-old doctor Melissa Ketunuti, who was on Monday strangled to death and lit on fire in the basement of her home, was $35,000. Councilman Kenyatta Johnson's Office yesterday added $15,000 to the city's $20,000 reward. That includes money from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, the University of Pennsylvania, ShopRite franchise owners Jeffrey Brown and Larry Collins and Joseph Zuritsky of Parkway Corp.
METRO

Local tweet

"Someone find that guy who sings 'Baby It's Cold Outside.' I'd put up with his sexual harassment today for a heated blanket."
@MISSTOILETSLAVE, ON YESTERDAY'S FRIGID TEMPERATURES

News in brief

Penn State sued by victim tied to Sandusky shower abuse

Pennsylvania State University was sued by one of the victims of sex abuse by former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky and accused of hiding what it knew about the threat he posed to children.

The plaintiff, known as Victim 6, filed the lawsuit Tuesday in federal court in Philadelphia against the university, Sandusky and the youth charity he founded.

The victim, who was 11 years old when the abuse took place, accused the school and charity of negligence, conspiracy and intentional infliction of emotion distress.

In 1998, Sandusky was questioned by police after the mother of Victim 6 complained about a shower incident in a university locker room. The police departments of Penn State and the town of State College, Pa., investigated.

Victim 6 seeks economic and non-economic damages, in addition to damages for pain and suffering and punitive damages, according to the complaint.

The damages sought exceed $75,000, according to the filing.
BLOOMBERG

$75K
The economic, non-economic, pain and suffering and punitive damages sought by Victim 6 exceed $75,000, according to the filing.

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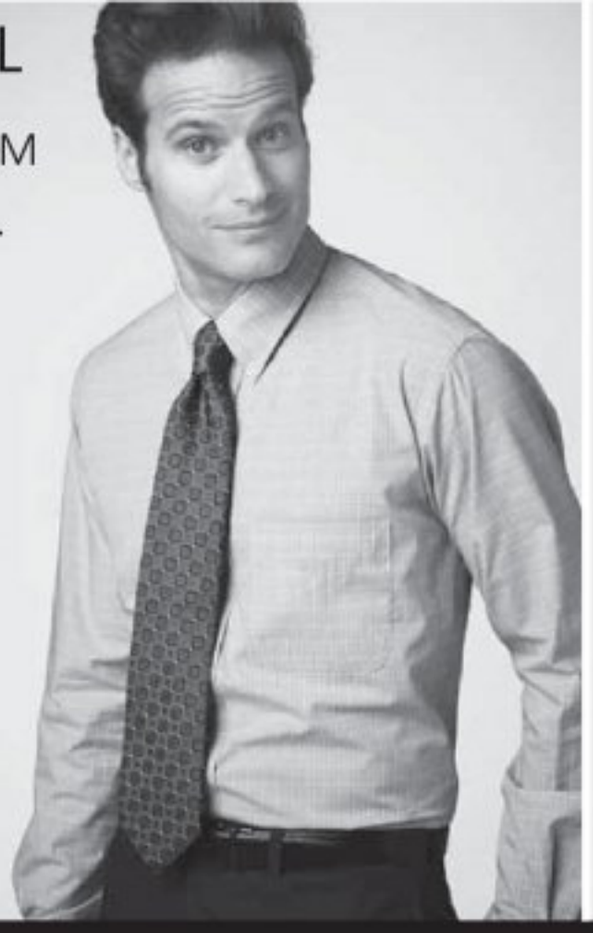

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News in brief

Poll: NJ's Christie heavy favorite to win reelection

Three-quarters of New Jersey voters approve of Gov. Chris Christie's job performance and nearly seven in 10 say he deserves to be elected to a second term in November, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released on Wednesday.

Christie, a Republican who is often mentioned as a potential presidential contender in 2016, has seen his popularity skyrocket since superstorm Sandy ripped through the state last fall.

The governor's embrace of President Barack Obama, a Democrat, and his angry rebuke of the Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives for its initial refusal to approve a storm aid package, helped cement his image as an independent-minded executive capable of rising above partisanship for the good of his constituents.

Christie would easily defeat several potential Democratic opponents, including the state Senate's Democratic leader, Stephen Sweeney, and State Senators Richard Codey and Barbara Buono, the poll found. **REUTERS**

30M

Congress approved a $30 million Sandy aid package for storm-damaged areas after Christie criticized House Speaker John Boehner and House Republicans for delaying the vote.

Five charged in deadly Tacony dungeon case

Defendants accused of imprisoning, stealing from disabled adults face life in prison Leader could receive death penalty

Five people are accused of imprisoning disabled adults in a dank Tacony basement to steal their Social Security checks, a scheme that led to the murders of two of the victims, a federal prosecutor said yesterday.

Each defendant in the so-called "dungeon case" faces life in prison, U.S. Attorney Zane David Memeger said at a press conference to unveil the 196-count indictment.

The alleged ringleader, Linda Weston, 52, also could face the death penalty because she is charged with two counts of murder in aid of racketeering, Memeger said.

The indictment said that her actions — chaining captives to a furnace, putting drugs in their food to subdue them — had resulted in the death of two captives.

"The conduct here is shocking," Memeger said.

The indictment accuses the basement captors of racketeering to steal disability payments from adults with the mental capacity of a 10-year-old.

Four of the defendants, including Weston and her daughter, had been charged with state crimes stemming from the scheme. A fifth, Nicklaus Woodward of West Palm Beach, was arrested in Florida on Wednesday. **REUTERS**

RICARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey surveyed the Tacony basement in October 2011. The captives were found by a landlord during a routine property check.

▶ Weston

212K

Memeger said the thefts amounted to $212,000 over 10 years. Two of the victims were captive for about 11 years.

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News in brief

House passes Republican plan to extend debt limit to May 19

WASHINGTON. The U.S. House of Representatives yesterday passed an extension of borrowing authority under the federal debt limit to May 19, putting the GOP plan on a fast track to enactment after top Senate Democrats endorsed it. Many Democrats objected to the extension's short-term nature.
Republicans, even those who have chafed under the leadership of Speaker John Boehner, fell in line. **REUTERS**

285 -144
Vote fell largely along party lines

Clinton angrily defends her handling of Benghazi attack

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton yesterday angrily defended her handling of the Sept. 11 attack on the U.S. mission in the Libyan city of Benghazi and denied any effort to mislead people.

The attack by armed militants that killed U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans threatens to stain Clinton's legacy as secretary of state. It also may dent any hopes that Clinton, who mounted an unsuccessful presidential campaign in 2008, may run for the White House again in 2016.

By turns emotional and fierce, Clinton choked up as she spoke of comforting the victims' families and grew angry when a Republican senator accused the Obama administration of misleading the country over whether the Benghazi incident stemmed from a protest.

GOP criticisms

- Republicans harshly criticized her, and President Barack Obama's administration more generally, with one saying the Benghazi attack and the U.S. response displayed "woeful unpreparedness" for the events sweeping the region and another saying Clinton should have been fired.

"With all due respect, the fact is that we had four dead Americans," Clinton shot back as she testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, an appearance delayed more than a month because of her ill health.

"Was it because of a protest or was it because of guys out for a walk one night who decided they'd go kill some Americans? What difference, at this point, does it make?" she said, making chopping motions with her hands for emphasis.

Clinton cast the incident as part of a long history of such violence as well as the result of regional instability.

Clinton is expected to step down in the coming days once her successor, Senator John Kerry, is confirmed. **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Secretary of State Hillary Clinton testifies before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the Sept. 11, 2012, attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya.

2016
Clinton may run for president again.

Clinton says she never saw security requests for Benghazi

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton yesterday said she never saw the requests for additional security for the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya, which was attacked in September, because they were handled by other State Department officials and normally would not reach her level. Clinton was testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee about the September attack in Benghazi by Islamist militants. **REUTERS**

"The specific security requests ... you know were handled by the security professionals in the department."
CLINTON

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All in for Allen

Obama to proceed with Allen nom for supreme NATO commander

President Barack Obama will go ahead with the nomination of General John Allen as supreme NATO commander in Europe now that he has been cleared of professional misconduct in a Pentagon probe, White House spokesman Jay Carney said yesterday.

Allen got caught up in a scandal that prompted retired General David Petraeus to resign as CIA director after his affair with his biographer was exposed.

A Pentagon investigation cleared Allen of any wrongdoing, prompting Obama to lift a hold on his nomination for the top NATO job.

"We intend for the nomination to proceed," said Carney yesterday. **REUTERS**

Iran stalling?

EU: Iran stalling on nuclear talks

Iran is stalling on fixing a date and location for a new round of talks on its nuclear program, the European Union's foreign policy chief said yesterday, but there is still hope that talks between Tehran and six world powers can begin soon.

EU officials have been in contact with Iranian negotiators repeatedly since December to try to prepare a new set of talks, which the West hopes will lead to Iran scaling back its nuclear work and avert the threat of another war in the Middle East.

But they have failed to agree on a plan so far.

"We proposed concrete dates and a venue in December," said Michael Mann, a spokesman for Catherine Ashton, who oversees contacts with Iran on behalf of United States, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany. **REUTERS**

"Since then, we have been very surprised to see Iran come back to us again and again with new pre-conditions on the modalities of the talks." **SPOKESMAN MICHAEL MANN**

US, Africa say Mali action counters Islamist threat

ERIC FEFERBERG/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ A Malian soldier holds a machine gun as he stands guard at the entrance of a strategic bridge over the Niger river.

The United States and African leaders threw their full diplomatic weight yesterday behind a campaign to expel Islamist rebels from Mali, as French air strikes harried the al Qaeda-allied fighters in their strongholds.

For nearly two weeks, French jets and helicopters have been hitting carefully selected targets around rebel-held Malian towns such as Gao and Timbuktu, while African troops gather for a planned ground offensive against the Islamist forces.

Last week's bloody seizure of a gas plant in neighboring Algeria by Islamist guerrillas heightened fears in Africa and the West that Mali's north could become a launchpad for international attacks by al Qaeda.

After halting a surprise Islamist offensive southwards towards Mali's capital Bamako, French ground troops and Malian army soldiers backed by French armored vehicles are securing locations recaptured from the rebels in the last few days.

Charred rebel pick-up trucks destroyed by the French air strikes were also visible amid the mango trees.

The U.N.-mandated intervention in Mali was originally conceived as "African-led, African-owned," but with the Malian army in disarray and African neighbors scrambling to deploy troops, France has taken the lead in the operation.

Amid widening international support for the Mali operation, the EU is preparing a 450-member mission to help train the Malian army while the U.S. and Europe are helping fly in French troops and equipment. **REUTERS**

Who will pay?

International donors are due to meet in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa Jan. 29 to discuss the African military operation in Mali.

- France said they would be asked to provide about $452 million.
- France's Le Drian told France 24 that the 12-day-old French military operation in Mali had cost 30 million euros.
- "There is not much money for Africa. ... It's a low priority [for Barack Obama's U.S. administration]," said Vicki Huddleston, who served as U.S. ambassador for Mali in 2002-2005.

Just plane difficult

Japan: Unlikely overcharging cause of woes for Dreamliner

GETTY IMAGES

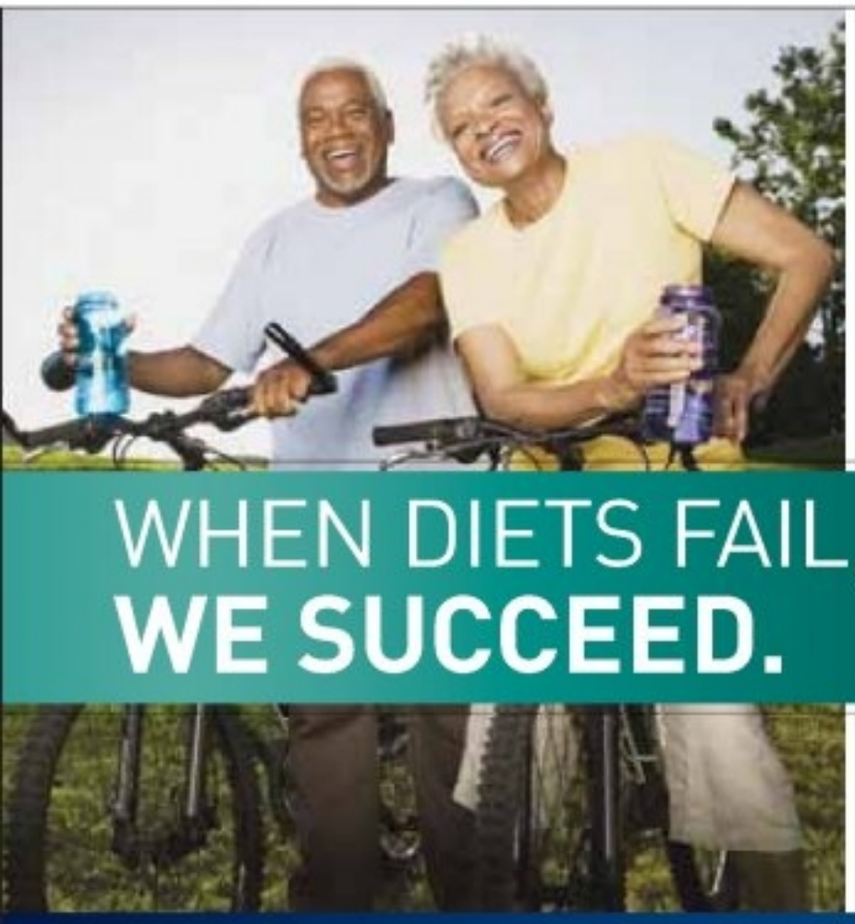
▶ Maybe if they stare at it long enough ...

Japanese regulators have joined their U.S. counterparts in all but ruling out overcharged batteries as the cause of recent fires on the Boeing Co 787 Dreamliner, which has now been grounded for a week worldwide.

Solving the battery issue has become the primary focus of the investigation, but with excess voltage more or less off the table, investigators are still hunting for a possible cause.

Regulators grounded the Dreamliner on Jan. 16 after a series of safety incidents, including battery fires on planes in the United States and Japan.

Last weekend the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board said the fire on a Japan Airlines Co. Ltd 787 in Boston was not due to excess voltage. **REUTERS**



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2 out of 3 people are overweight and benefit from the combined advantages of two weight loss supplements. Total body fat reducer and targeted abdominal formula for Hollywood stars now available to the public

By S. Hufford, Media Services

An advanced, dual-acting, fat-fighting pair of products produced by famous Beverly Hills nutritionist Cristiana Paul, MS, and plastic surgeon Dr. Frank Ryan is now available to the public.

Previously these products had only been available to clients which have included Hollywood movie and television stars and celebrities across the nation. These products substantially improve personal appearance without plastic surgery.

Cristiana Paul, perhaps the most famous nutritionist in recent times, has been extensively featured on television and in magazines across the nation for her products and services that make celebrities look and perform many years younger than their age.

The first products being offered to the public are a pair of fat-reducing supplements that for the first time meet both essential needs for successful weight loss — total body fat reduction without feeling hungry, including the stomach, thighs, and buttocks PLUS a targeted abdominal fat reducing formula that significantly increases calorie burning so that you lose weight faster.

Most weight loss programs settle for one or the other, but Cristiana Paul's research showed her that both together are not only necessary for better outcomes, but actually work together synergistically for a dramatically higher level of effectiveness than an ordinary program would achieve on its own.

Are you one of the millions of Americans struggling to lose weight — or to maintain your current weight? Do you snack often or perhaps have large portions at meals? Are you worried about the obesity epidemic and how it will affect you and your family? Too much belly fat and excess weight afflict many people just like you. And it's not your fault, because when your body tells you that it is hungry it's natural to give in. It's a survival trigger to eat so you feel full. Many others are experiencing the same thing, as U.S. Government statistics show that nearly 130 million Americans, or 64%, are overweight or obese. That's 2 out of 3 people.

How does the special, dual-acting regimen of Cristiana Paul's TOTAL BODY FAT REDUCER and Dr. Ryan's ABDOMINAL FAT REDUCER help people lose excess body fat? Cristiana Paul, Nutritional Director of Endless Youth & Life explained.

Cristiana revealed, "You can think of Cristiana Paul's TOTAL BODY FAT REDUCER as a highly effective 'sponge' that soaks up liquid and expands as it does. Taken as a small pill before meals with a glass of water, the extract in Cristiana Paul's TOTAL BODY FAT REDUCER expands up to many times its own size,[1] filling a portion of your stomach with a safe, natural plant-based fiber gel that contains virtually no calories of its own. You feel full and stay satisfied longer after eating. You are less hungry and lose or maintain your weight easily. Then, the second part of the complete regimen, the Dr. Ryan's ABDOMINAL FAT REDUCER, features a substance called Conjugated Linoleic Acid (CLA). It was found in a number of research studies on laboratory animals and later confirmed in human studies, to decrease abdominal fat.

Dr. Ryan's ABDOMINAL FAT REDUCER formula has been proven to provide abdominal and total body reduction in 4 ways: 1) reduces the glycemic index of the high-carb/high sugar foods you eat, giving you more stable blood sugar levels[2]; 2) improves the chance that your body will release fat to be burned for energy; 3) decreases abdominal body fat mass by decreasing the amount of abdominal fat that is stored after eating; 4) increases the rate of fat breakdown and the rate of abdominal fat metabolism which decreases the total number of fat cells. You can think of CLA as a match that lights the fuse in abdominal fat. This fuse also increases metabolic rate that can result in more fat loss. ABDOMINAL FAT REDUCER contains the effective dose of CLA.

CLA also interferes with an enzyme called lipoprotein lipase (LPL). LPL is an enzyme that helps store fat in the body.[3] So, by inhibiting this fat-storing enzyme LPL, CLA can help reduce the re-accumulation of fat."

Studies have shown that the ingredients in Dr. Ryan's ABDOMINAL FAT REDUCER increase the rate of fat metabolism, which reduces both surface and intestinal abdominal fat and helps inhibit future formation of these abdominal fats.[4,5,6] This also includes caffeine equal to about 1 cup of coffee.

"That metabolism factor works quite effectively when paired with Cristiana Paul's TOTAL BODY FAT REDUCER, because its exclusive formula dissolves in the stomach and slows down digestion and the absorption of food."

Real people controlled portion sizes and reduced snacking without going on a diet or adding exercise, although everyone is encouraged to do those, too. One study showed an average weight loss of 5.5 lbs. after 8 weeks of taking 2 capsules 3 times per day of the same extract as provided by Cristiana Paul's TOTAL BODY FAT REDUCER.[7]

Cristiana Paul's TOTAL BODY FAT REDUCER and Dr. Ryan's ABDOMINAL FAT REDUCER are the perfect one-two punch in the dual-acting kit of two complementary supplements. The TOTAL BODY FAT REDUCER and ABDOMINAL FAT REDUCER Supplementation Kit comes with a 100% Satisfaction Guarantee. The fitness and nutritional experts at Endless Youth & Life are so confident you will love the results you'll see with the TOTAL BODY FAT REDUCER and ABDOMINAL FAT REDUCER Supplementation Kit that Endless Youth & Life stands behind this revolutionary, breakthrough product kit with a 60-day complete Money-Back Guarantee.

Today, readers of this publication can get the TOTAL BODY FAT REDUCER and ABDOMINAL FAT REDUCER Supplementation Kit at a major discount if they order within 10 days from the date of this publication. The regular price of a 30-day supply of both the TOTAL BODY FAT REDUCER and ABDOMINAL FAT REDUCER is $118 plus $3.95 shipping and handling for a total of $121.95.

But, for this 10-day discount, readers can get $40.00 off plus free shipping and handling and pay only $78 delivered for the TOTAL BODY FAT REDUCER and ABDOMINAL FAT REDUCER Supplementation Kit. For readers who want to obtain a 30-day supply of the dual-action pair at this 10-day discount price, please see the Special Reader's Discount Coupon on this page.

There is a strict limit of 3 kits at this discount price — no exceptions please. After 10 days, we may accept or reject orders at the discounted price.

Cristiana Paul, MS, is a celebrity nutritionist and nutrition researcher with many years experience in clinical practice and nutrition research reviews. She holds a Masters in Nutrition Science from Cal Poly Pomona in California, and has an extensive science background. Cristiana is a contributor to the 2012 edition of the Textbook of Natural Medicine and was interviewed among other leading health experts and doctors in Suzanne Sommers' best-selling books. She is also an educator for doctors and nutritionists on the most recent advances in the field of preventive health and integrative healing, and has contributed to the design of many nutritional formulations and nutritional protocols utilized by healthcare practitioners.

Dr. Frank Ryan, famous plastic surgeon to the Hollywood stars, was featured on television and in magazines across the nation on an extensive basis. Dr. Ryan fulfilled his lifelong dream of developing a line of products which would substantially improve personal appearance without plastic surgery. This product line, which includes an advanced abdominal fat reducer was previously only available to Dr. Ryan's clients. It has now been made available to the public.

There's More to Cristiana Paul's TOTAL BODY FAT REDUCER Than Weight Loss Alone

Cristiana Paul's TOTAL BODY FAT REDUCER has been clinically proven to help reduce total body fat. In one study, average weight loss was 5.5 lbs. after only 8 weeks. Many studies that supplemented with the special fiber contained in Cristiana Paul's TOTAL BODY FAT REDUCER have shown valuable benefits in addition to weight loss:

1. Increased regularity, which improves intestinal health and toxin elimination
2. A slight reduction of blood glucose if it was elevated
3. A slight reduction of total cholesterol levels

Plus, because you feel full and take in fewer calories, you naturally eat less, so you actually save money on groceries because you're buying less and less.

Cristiana Paul's TOTAL BODY FAT REDUCER CLINICAL STUDY RESULTS

FEELING FULL
IMPROVED REGULARITY
MAINTAIN NORMAL CHOLESTEROL AND BLOOD GLUCOSE THAT ARE ALREADY IN THE NORMAL RANGE
REDUCE WEIGHT AND BODY FAT
LOWER FOOD INTAKE RESULTS IN SAVING MONEY

CHIN, ARMS, HIPS, THIGHS AND BUTTOCKS REDUCED

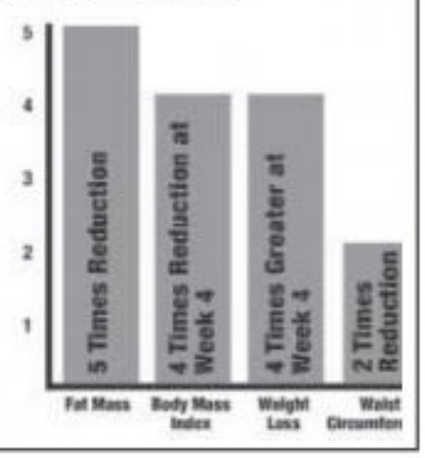
Scientific Double Blind Clinical Study of Dr. Ryan's ABDOMINAL FAT REDUCER

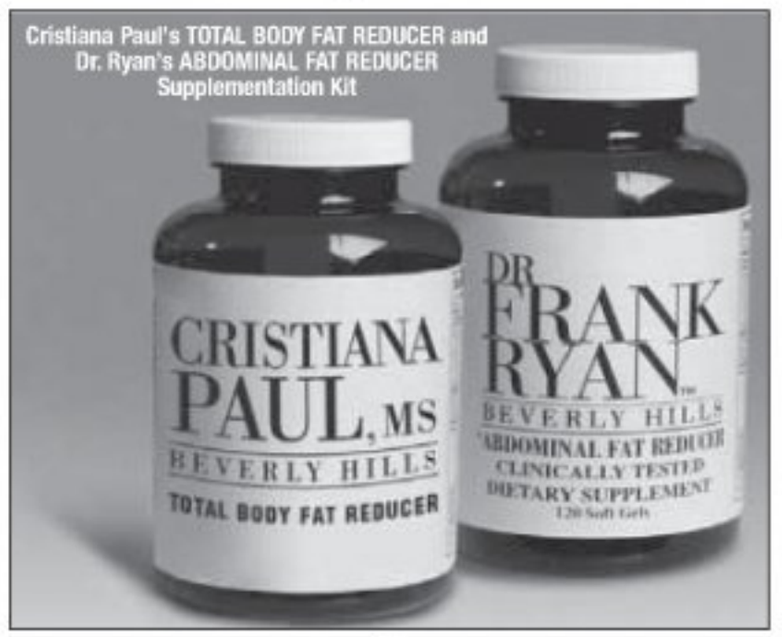
Commissioned by Advanced Supplement Research and conducted by a research group which has an expert staff consisting of more than 32 board-certified physician investigators and more than 38 ACRP-certified clinical research coordinators. This group conducts clinical studies for the major drug companies.

Test subjects did not exercise or diet differently from each other and were given daily dosage of ABDOMINAL FAT REDUCER or Placebo. The ABDOMINAL FAT REDUCER group experienced 5 times reduction in fat mass, 4 times reduction in BMI, 4 times greater weight loss, 2 times reduction in waist circumference and nearly a 50% decrease in calorie and carbohydrate intake.

To review this clinical study log on to www.clinicalstudies publishing.com

ABDOMINAL FAT REDUCER CLINICAL STUDY RESULTS





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2 Sood N, Baker WL, Coleman CI. Effect of glucomannan on plasma lipid and glucose concentrations, body weight, and blood pressure: systematic review and meta-analysis. Am J Clin Nutr. 2008 Oct;88(4):1167-75.

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6 Metabolism 2000 Jan; 49:101-7

7 Walsh DE, Yaghoubian V, Behforooz A. Effect of glucomannan on obese patients: a clinical study. Int J Obes. 1984;8(4):289-93.

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In the news

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Authorities charge three over 'Gozi' computer virus

NEW YORK. Federal prosecutors charged three people in as many countries with creating and distributing a computer virus that infected more than a million computers around the world, including some operated by the U.S. space agency and others by banks.

The Gozi virus infected at least 40,000 computers in the United States and caused millions of dollars in losses by stealing online banking credentials, the Manhattan U.S. Attorney's office said yesterday.

The defendants, Latvian Deniss Calovskis, Russian Nikita Kuzmin and Romanian Mihai Ionut Paunescu, used Gozi to steal millions of dollars from bank accounts in Europe, the United States and elsewhere, according to the indictment filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan. **REUTERS**

Man sues Georgia for blocking 'GAYGUY' plate

ATLANTA. An Atlanta man is suing the state of Georgia after his application for a vanity license plate that he said described his sexual orientation was denied. State officials turned down the three choices — 4GAYLIB, GAYPWR and GAYGUY — that James Cyrus Gilbert, 30, submitted on Jan. 2 for a personalized tag, according to a lawsuit filed this month against the commissioner of the Georgia Department of Driver Services. "I am a gay man," Gilbert said. "I am a taxpayer. I pay my bills just like everyone else." **REUTERS**

Manti Te'o tells Katie Couric he lied to maintain hoax

Notre Dame football star Manti Te'o told ABC News' Katie Couric that he had lied to keep up a hoax involving a nonexistent girlfriend two days before the Heisman Trophy winner was announced.

In a preview of the interview shown yesterday on "Good Morning America," Te'o talked about the girlfriend, Lennay Kekua.

He mourned her Sept. 12 death from cancer — but it later turned out that she never existed, except as part of an online fraud.

"Now I get a phone call on Dec. 6 saying that she's alive and then I'm going be put on national TV two days later," Te'o told Couric.

"And [they're going] to ask me about the same question. You know, what would you do?"

A Heisman contender, Te'o was passed over for the award, which went to Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel.

"You stuck to the script," Couric said. "And you knew that something was amiss, Manti."

Te'o replied: "Katie, put yourself in my situation. ... My whole world told me that she died on Sept. 12. Everybody knew that." **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Te'o acknowledged in a statement that he had never met the woman in person, although he considered her to be his girlfriend, and said he had been duped.

TV interview

This is Te'o's first on-camera interview since news broke of the fraud behind one the most widely recounted U.S. sports stories last year as Notre Dame made a drive toward the college football national championship game. The interview will be broadcast in its entirety on the daytime talk show "Katie" today. **REUTERS**

Excerpts from the interview

"Katie, put yourself in my situation. ... My whole world told me that she died on Sept. 12."

"Everybody knew that. This girl, who I committed myself to, died on Sept. 12."

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THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson's take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Coco wants baby girl to be a lawyer

A good way for the world to forget that whole pesky drama of **Ice-T**'s wife, **Coco**, canoodling with Oakland rapper **AP.9** in December? For her to get knocked up with Ice-T's baby — at some point.

"I want a little girl!" Coco tells In Touch in this week's issue. "We already have the name — Chanel. I want her to be a lawyer!"

"Chanel-T" will have to wait a bit in the creation department, however, as Coco is filling in for the pregnant **Holly Madison** as star of the burlesque Peepshow at Las Vegas' Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino. "I want a little doll of my own!" she adds. "I could teach her to walk in heels and do her hair."

I, for one, cannot wait. The maternity wear alone is going to be priceless.

"I want a little doll of my own! I could teach her to walk in heels and do her hair."
COCO

GETTY IMAGES

▶ At least Coco didn't express her desire to name her future kid "AP.10."

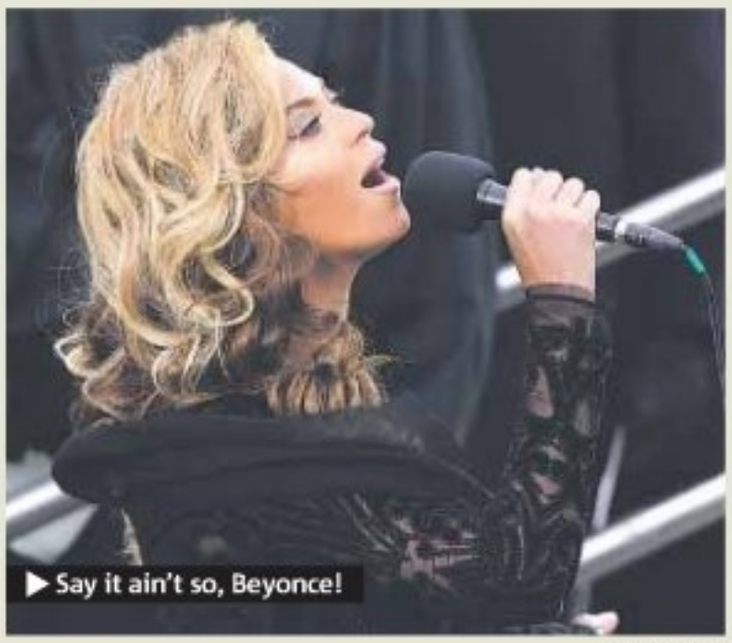
Stars react on Beyonce lip-syncing controversy

Singers and celebrities the world over are weighing in on the **Beyonce** lip-syncing controversy, with most saying they respect the fact she didn't sing live.

"Sometimes it happens when you are in certain stadiums and certain venues and things, they do pre-record stuff because you're going to have that terrible slap back," **Jennifer Lopez** told **Jon Stewart** on "The Daily Show." And **Aretha Franklin**, no stranger to singing at inaugurations, agreed: "I thought it was funny because the weather down there was about 46 or 44 degrees, and for most singers that is just not good singing weather," she told ABC News. "When I heard that, I just really cracked up. I thought it was really funny, but she did a beautiful job with the pre-record."

But perhaps it was **Stephen Tyler** who expressed his opinion best. When a TMZ cameraman asked what the Aerosmith frontman thought, he responded: "Beyonce's so hot she can do anything. Let's just get real."

Agreed.



▶ Say it ain't so, Beyonce!

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Talking points

Shakira welcomes baby boy Milan

Shakira gave birth to a baby boy, **Milan Pique Mebarak**, in Barcelona, she announced via Twitter. "I'd like to ask you all to accompany me in your prayers on this very important day of my life," she posted. The singer clarified the meaning behind the baby's name in a statement posted to her website: "The name Milan (pronounced MEE-lahn), means dear, loving and gracious in Slavic; in Ancient Roman, eager and laborious; and in Sanskrit, unification."

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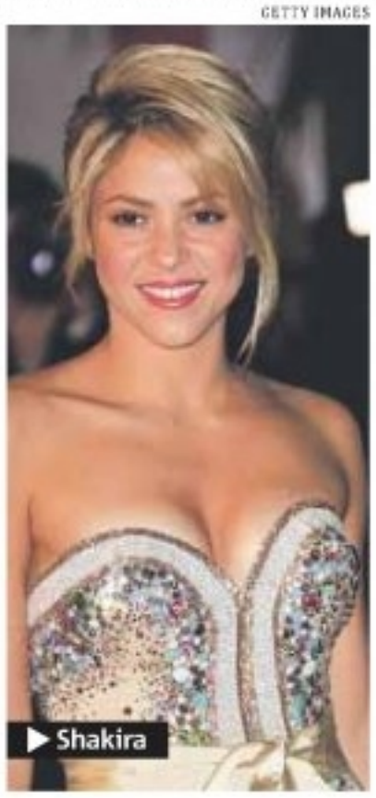

▶ Shakira

Schwarzenegger wants to reconcile with Shriver

Arnold Schwarzenegger is looking to get his marriage to **Maria Shriver** back on track. Shriver filed for divorce in 2011 after it came to light that Schwarzenegger had fathered a child with the family's housekeeper, but Shriver has made no further action to move the divorce forward. "We're not fighting a war. I still hope for reconciliation," he tells Germany's Bild newspaper. "I still love Maria."

Cooper would love to take on Armstrong

Days after it was announced that **J.J. Abrams** was looking into producing a film about **Lance Armstrong**'s rise and fall, actors are already lining up to play him. "I would be interested in [playing Armstrong]," Oscar-nominee **Bradley Cooper** tells BBC News. "I think he's fascinating."

Kelly Osbourne's top secret engagement

Kelly Osbourne is reportedly engaged to **Matthew Mosshart** after a very hush-hush proposal a few weeks before Christmas, according to Us Weekly. "Kelly is the happiest she's ever been," a source says.

2

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Niall Horan is clearing up rumors, Rosie O'Donnell is saying what a lot of people are thinking, Edward Norton is getting back to work and Joan Rivers is hungry.

@NiallOfficial
I was not in a crash and that is not my car,

@Rosie
i think manti te'o must be gay

@EdwardNorton
I cut myself on the ribs when I dropped Wes Anderson's new script because I was laughing so hard. Grand Budapest starts this week WesA=fun

@Joan_Rivers
Big news! I'm eating for two. Unfortunately they are my left thigh and my right thigh.

Edward Norton

myentertainment

PETA won't be happy: Celebs wearing winter fur

1 **Nicole Kidman** donned a black fur coat at the LAX Airport on Jan. 9 in Los Angeles, Calif.

2 **Anna Wintour** rocked head-to-toe winter white (including a white fur shrug) at the 58th London Evening Standard Theatre Awards at The Savoy Hotel on Nov. 25 in London.

3 **Rihanna** sported a nice fur trim on her parka in Paris in November.

4 **Celine Dion** donned a fur shawl while leaving the Four Seasons hotel on Nov. 28 in Paris.

5 **Adam Lambert** donned a full-length fur coat to host "VH1 Divas" 2012 on Dec. 16 in Los Angeles, Calif.

6 **Psy** wore a white fur vest while performing at "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest 2013" in Times Square on Dec. 31 in New York City.

1: JB LACROIX/WIREIMAGE
2: DAVE M. BENETT/GETTY IMAGES
3: MARC PIASECKI/FILMMAGIC
4: MARC PIASECKI/FILMMAGIC
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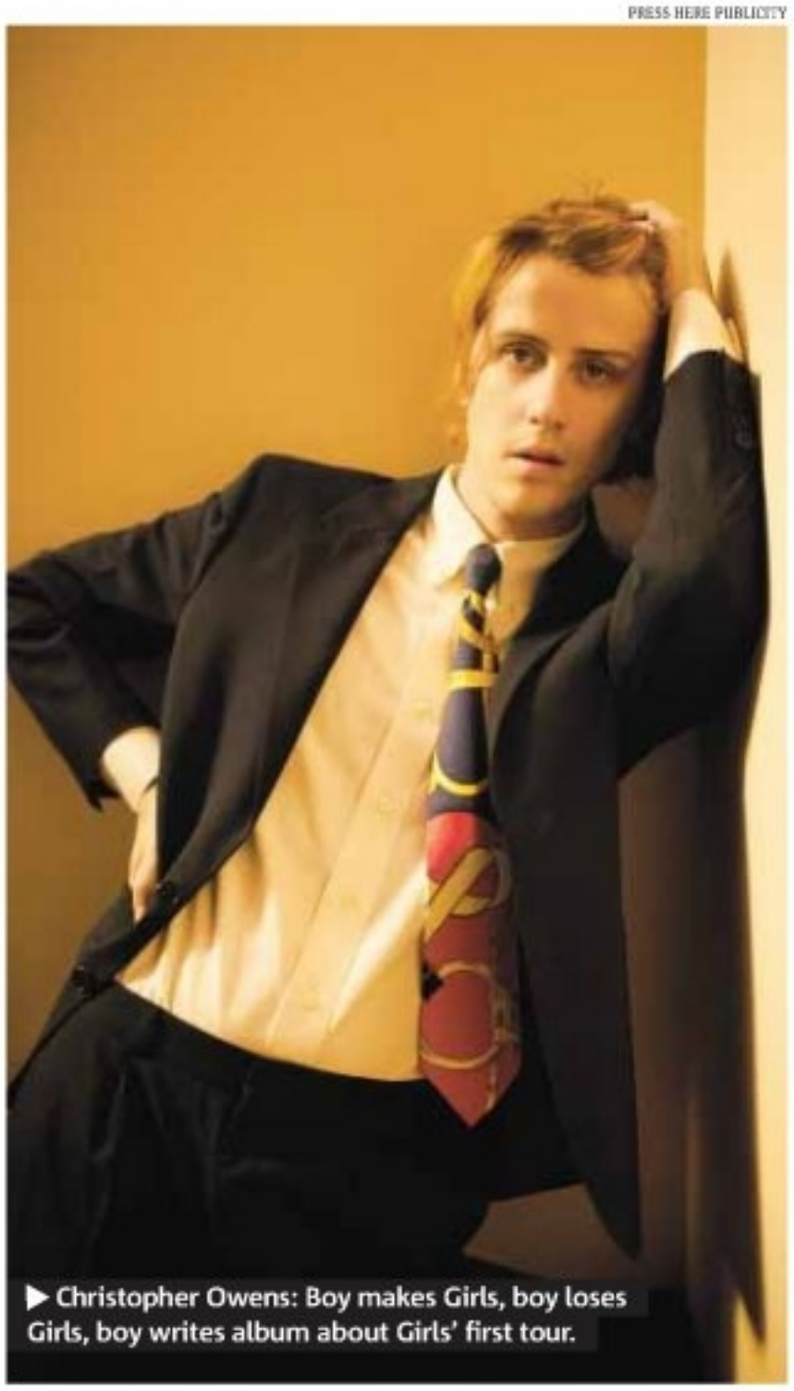

▶ Christopher Owens: Boy makes Girls, boy loses Girls, boy writes album about Girls' first tour.

Just one of the Girls

- Christopher Owens on the story of his new concept album
- Why you won't hear songs by his former band on this tour

After disbanding Girls last year, the first project that singer Christopher Owens chose to tackle under his own name was a concept album called "Lysandre." The work — full of saxophones and flutes and Owens' take on classic pop-song architecture — might seem like the furthest thing from his previous band, but the narrative arc is all about Girls' first tour in 2008.

"It starts out being excited to go on that tour and not really knowing what to expect, because I hadn't done any tours before that," he says.

While he's dealing with his Girls experience in a very specific way on this tour, he won't play any Girls songs.

"I will play those songs again in the future," he says. "But I feel like with this album ... it's kind of obvious that it will be a show of this album."

Owens wrote the "Lysandre" songs shortly after that first tour, while Girls still existed.

"They were just seven songs out of the 60 or so that I wrote in those couple of years," he says. "I guess I always kind of thought they would be Girls songs."

Pat Healy
pat.healy@metro.us

If you go

Christopher Owens
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What does Owens think of the HBO show, 'Girls'?

I haven't really watched much of that show. I just didn't really enjoy the fact that they used the name. When I very first saw that it was a show coming out, I didn't really think about it. And then as I heard more about the show, I realized it was being worked on and made by people who definitely knew who our band was and knew that we existed and were definitely aware of us. They could have simply added one word, or used a different word, and made it a different thing instead of straight taking the name as if it didn't matter at all.

It's something that I let go of pretty quickly, but at one point I realized that it was definitely a conscious choice that they made, just because of the people involved. They clearly were aware that we were functioning under that name and they kind of just viewed themselves as so big, and so much more of a big project, that it didn't matter. It could have been so simple to make it a different name. It could have been "New York Girls" or whatever. There was a point where I realized that and I got a little bit offended, that's all. ... And I guess the whole thing kind of resolved itself when I ended up not wanting to be in a band anymore anyway.

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GUARDS BLESS AMERICA

A radio-ready rock trio bring on the epic jams as best they can Richie Follin on his band that he never really planned on

Guards open up for Ra Ra Riot tonight at Union Transfer.

OLIVIA MALONE

Richie Follin says he only cared about one thing for his band's full length debut. Everything else just fell into place.

"I hadn't written any songs with a band in mind," says the singer and guitarist. "I was writing the songs for the songs' sake and trying to make an album."

That band became Guards and that album is "In Guards We Trust," which comes out Feb. 5.

As far as everything else falling into place, well, look at his band. They're a mixed-gender outfit with picturesque uniformly long brown hair.

"That's not a thought-out thing," he insists. "I was watching this interview with Bob Marley, and obviously it's different because he's a Rasta, but he was saying that his hair is his identity. I don't want to say my hair is my identity, but at this point I'm that guy with long hair."

Follin is also that guy who previously played with Cults (see sidebar) and Willowz. He says he wanted Guards to be more polished than his other projects: "I definitely want to be on the radio and I want to sell records."

And with this album, they definitely have a shot. The sound is akin to the Pixies' more restrained later era and MGMT.

The only problem with setting up a band after recording an album?

"That feeling of epicness is hard to get across to people," he says. "Doing 'ohs' into a microphone, if not treated a certain way, ends up sounding like a pop/punk band."

Pat Healy
pat.healy@metro.us

A 'Little Women' Thanksgiving?

Readers of Pitchfork will know Richie Follin as the brother of Cults singer Madeline Follin. With a laugh he says, "The first five times I was OK with it." But with such a musical family, what is Thanksgiving like?

"The last time we were all together, was like everybody down in the basement jamming Black Sabbath or Devo, but that's mainly my step-dad or me and my friends. Maddie doesn't really jam that much. ... It's not like a scene out of 'Little Women' or anything."

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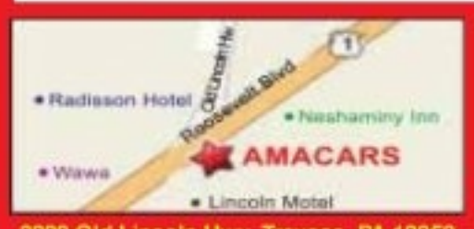

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TV watch list

'Project Runway'

REALITY. Longtime "Project Runway" fans were not happy to hear the reality competition's 11th season would be the "Teams Edition." But fear not, fashionistas — designers will still create their own looks and be judged on their individual talent and style, albeit with the scores of their teammates adding to a cumulative tally that decides a winning side each week. So expect more catty critique from designers to designers — oh, and words of wisdom from new judge Zac Posen, too. **Season premiere, 9 p.m., Lifetime**

'Archer'

COMEDY. "Justified" star Timothy Olyphant lends his voice to Luke Troy, Archer's former best friend who reunites with his pal in the Vermont wilderness under less-than-ideal circumstances. **10 p.m., FX**

BARBARA NITKE

▶ Zac Posen joins Heidi Klum on the Season 11 premiere of "Project Runway."

ABC

▶ Andre Braugher stars in "Last Resort."

'Last Resort'

DRAMA. One final battle for the fate of the rogue submarine has Marcus and Sam fighting for control — and leaves the Colorado vulnerable to capture in the series finale. Too bad another network won't be coming to this action-drama's rescue. **Series finale, 8 p.m., ABC**

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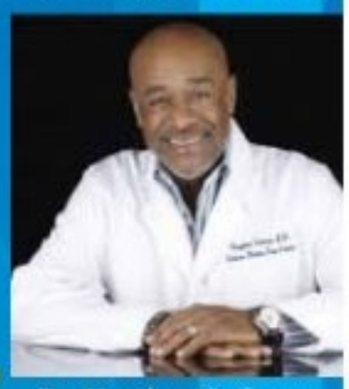

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10 REASONS TO HIT THEATERS

2 'Parker': Whoa, Jason Statham as a bad-ass action hero? What a change of pace! This time, Jennifer Lopez contributes some very attractive set dressing.

3 'Movie 43': The Farrelly Brothers helm this multi-director, star-studded comedy made up of many vignettes and tied together with the quest of three teenagers to find the most taboo movie ever made.

4 'The Last Stand': Arnold Schwarzenegger takes on the leader of a drug cartel with the help of his amateur partners.

5 'Mama': Jessica Chastain and Nikolaj Coster-Waldau star as parents who help their young nieces adjust to normal life after spending years abandoned in a forest.

Must-see

PARAMOUNT PICTURES

▶ When it comes to bounty-hunting, these two take their cue from Duane "Dog" Chapman and keep it in the family.

1 'Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters': She: best known for saying things like "It was fated by the gods" in "Prince of Persia" and "Clash of the Titans." He: best known for busting heads open in "The Bourne Legacy" and "The Avengers." Together, Gemma Arterton and Jeremy Renner are the bounty-hunting, witch-slaying sibling team.

6 'Broken City': Academy Award nominees Mark Wahlberg and Russell Crowe share an interesting relationship as determined cop and corrupt city mayor in this action-drama.

7 'Les Miserables': This Tom Hooper musical cleaned up at the Golden Globes, winning awards for Hugh Jackman and Anne Hathaway.

8 'A Haunted House': It's about time all those documentary-style horror movies like "Paranormal Activity" and "The Last Exorcism" get a send-up — and Marlon Wayans and Cedric the Entertainer are happy to do the job.

9 'Zero Dark Thirty': Jessica Chastain stars in Kathryn Bigelow's military drama about the hunt for Osama Bin Laden.

10 'Texas Chainsaw 3D': Leatherface has had as many incarnations in Hollywood as he has had gross homemade masks. This time, a new cast of young unknowns do battle with the serial killer.

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THE PANT/SHOE CONUNDRUM

Flared legs to skinnies — anything goes when it comes to trousers now But the trend comes with its share of shoe problems We solve them

Cropped skinnies

Tip: If the boots are too tall, your legs will look like stubs. You want to show a sliver of sock or skin above the boot.

A classic bootie

Tailored wide legs

Tip: Choose a bright shoe for a flash of color as you walk.

A bold pump

Tailored cigarettes

Tip: Pay attention to length. Ankle straps work best when the trouser hits just above the ankle.

An ankle-strap heel

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How not to fight like an a—hole

▶ Before picking a fight with your mate, get to the bottom of what's really upsetting you.

STOCKBYTE

Fighting in relationships is inevitable. This is not necessarily a bad thing — working through conflicts only makes your bond stronger. Of course, there are completely unproductive ways to fight, and when we're fired up it's easy to fall into those patterns. The best thing you can do to ensure a "good" fight is to know what you're pissed about, and make sure you express it.

Knowing why you're mad can be trickier than you might imagine. Think about the things we tend to yell about. They're often small: leaving dishes in the sink, not taking out the trash or being 30 minutes late. Generally speaking, these small behaviors aren't the actual problem. Maybe they're annoying, but there's probably something deeper going on that made them so infuriating in the first place.

What we're truly upset about is generally much more profound and less nitpicky than what we express. We feel neglected, walked on, rejected or unloved. But because it's hard to pinpoint one specific behavior that makes us feel this way, we grab onto something small yet tangible and have blowout fights about three dirty plates.

We get mad about things that are easy to get mad about. These things don't illuminate past scars, current insecurities or deep-seated fears. They let us get out all our pain and anger without having to admit how much control our partner has over our happiness. But they also distract us from having conversations about what we really need. These feelings could poison the relationship if left unattended.

These more difficult issues that we're not confessing to our partners (and maybe even to ourselves) are the ones we need to bring up. Maybe we can't do it articulately. Maybe we don't have "facts" to support it. And maybe it makes us sound a little more vulnerable than we'd like to admit. But only by revealing your deepest wounds does your partner have any chance to heal them.

*— **Amber Madison** is a Manhattan-based relationship expert and dating coach. She is the author of 'Are All Guys Assholes?' for which she traveled the country, spoke to over 1,000 men and discovered that the answer to this question is no. You can follow her on Twitter @ambermadi or online at www.ambermadisononline.com*

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camp guide

Summer fun to beat the winter chill

It may be freezing, but it's not too early to start looking into summer camps Local picks for budding artists and energetic daredevils alike

R. KENNEDY FOR *CP|TMC*

The Franklin Institute's Discovery Camp keeps learning fun.

Believe it or not, things will defrost and summer will sneak up — and along with it comes bored little ones. Fortunately, Philly has plenty of ways to keep them busy and keep them learning while school's out.

The Franklin Institute

We've got to admit that we're a little jealous that the Franklin Institute's Discovery Camp's cut off is eighth grade. This camp capitalizes on the Franklin's unique mix of laboratory and playground with hands-on science experiments, guest speakers, film screenings and outdoor play. Spring break and summer sessions are available. **www.fi.edu**

The Clay Studio

Even the most artistic kiddos want to get messy sometimes. At the Clay Studio's summer Clay Camp, children will learn some basic ceramic skills and advanced making-a-muddy-mess techniques. Sessions at the Old City studio run July through August, with both full- and half-day options available. **www.theclaystudio.org**

Philadelphia School of Circus Arts

Have an aspiring Spider-Man in your life? Let the School of Circus Arts channel that daredevil energy into everything from unicycling to trapeze arts at their popular camps. **www.phillycircus.com**

Appel Farm Arts Camp

If you're looking for a slightly more traditional s'mores-and-outdoors sleepaway camp, Appel Farm has been hosting overnight arts camps in rural South Jersey for more than 50 years. Activities include a mix of the arts (acting, sculpture) and being a kid in the summer (swimming, horseback riding). **www.appelfarmartscamp.org** METRO

Plan for parents

Want your kiddo to get the most out of camp? The American Camp Association states that parents take these steps:

- Before registering, discuss key aspects such as the duration of the camp session, activities and whether or not your kid's friends will also be attending.
- Research camps that focus on a particular strength or hobby of your child.
- Encourage independence by allowing your child to help shop for camp necessities, pack and complete registration forms.
- If it's an overnight camp, make a plan to keep in touch through letters or phone calls in case homesickness strikes.

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Scholarships are available. Center City Philadelphia.

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Horoscope

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Don't be foolish enough to attempt to do something that you failed miserably at in the past. Unless you profit from your mistakes, you're destined to repeat them.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Even though your way of doing things might be superior to the methods of other people, unless you handle matters in a humble manner others will be unwilling to follow your lead.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Be careful what you say when making a suggestion. Your intention might be good, but your choice of words could be offensive.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Financial gains and losses are both possible during this cycle, so unless you're careful poor judgment could wreck your bottom line.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** It's essential that you distinguish between when to assert yourself and when to back off. If you get your signals crossed, you could end up looking bad.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Even though you're usually pretty good at keeping others' secrets, if you're not careful today, you could let something slip out.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Although you'll be exceptionally practical and prudent in areas where you have little to gain, strangely, you might be somewhat foolish when it comes to more costly matters. Reverse that formula.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Your interests should never become so important that you'd do something shameful. Maintain your high standards at all times.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Advice to others based upon personal knowledge and experience can be extremely helpful. The opposite would be true if you pretend to know something you really don't.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Be extremely careful, whether you're handling your own fiscal affairs or those of another. In either case, things could become perilous if you're sloppy.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** It's important that you don't ignore wise counsel just because it comes from someone you don't like, while accepting the advice of a friend whose judgment is usually poor.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Unless you schedule your time well, you could become very busy accomplishing nothing of any importance. Try to be proficient, not frenetic.

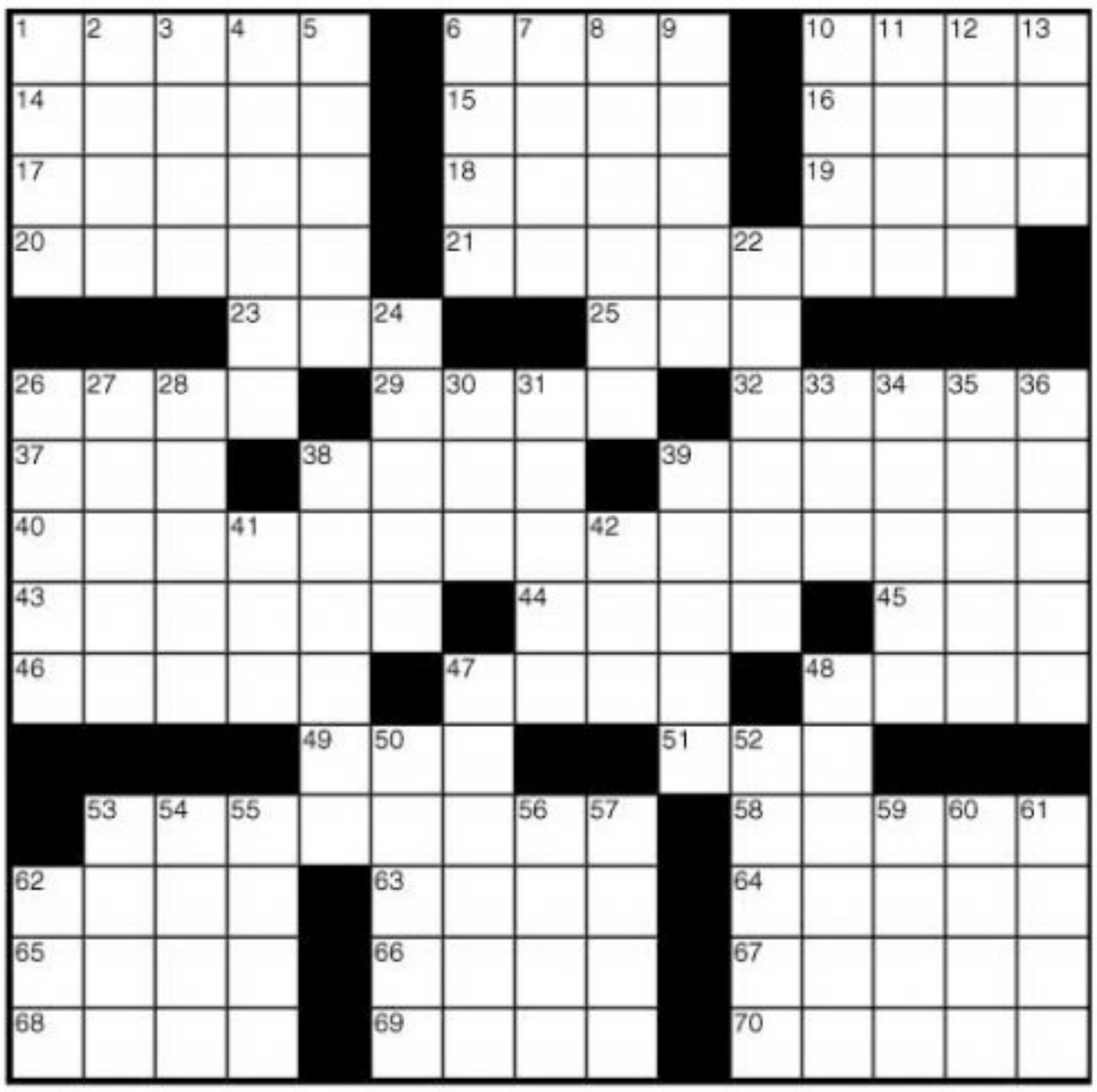
BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Solution to yesterday's crossword

P	E	N	D	■	I	L	E	S	■	U	T	T	E	R
A	L	O	E	■	N	O	S	H	■	P	R	A	D	O
W	H	I	P	■	U	R	S	A	■	R	A	D	I	O
S	I	R	I	O	I	N	■	Q	U	O	N	S	E	T
■	■	■	O	P	T	E	D	■	L	A	S	■	■	■
D	E	B	R	I	S	■	R	E	T	R	I	E	V	E
E	L	L	E	N	■	P	A	I	R	■	T	U	E	S
T	I	A	■	E	P	I	G	R	A	M	■	B	E	T
E	D	N	A	■	I	N	G	E	■	A	F	I	R	E
R	E	C	R	E	A	T	E	■	C	H	E	E	S	E
■	■	■	R	O	N	■	D	U	R	A	N	■	■	■
A	P	R	I	C	O	T	■	C	A	L	C	I	T	E
S	I	E	V	E	■	R	I	O	T	■	I	R	O	N
A	S	P	E	N	■	A	C	N	E	■	N	A	R	C
P	A	S	S	E	■	M	E	N	D	■	G	E	O	L

Across
1 — -turvy
6 Dovetails
10 Key — pie
14 Wahine's welcome
15 Vacation destination
16 Way, way off
17 Speaker's request
18 Hideous giant
19 Reproving clucks
20 Eagle's gripper
21 Ta-ta (hyph.)
23 NASA counterpart
25 Microscopic
26 Very funny person
29 Feeling blue
32 Attic end
37 Twilight, to a poet
38 Blister or scrape
39 Synapse neighbor
40 Fast exit (2 wds.)
43 Draw forth
44 South African money
45 Tolstoy title word
46 More feasible
47 The strong silent —
48 Pact member
49 Windhoek's cont.
51 Eur. airline
53 Withdrawals
58 Windy City airport
62 Himalayan sighting
63 Bleacher shouts
64 Droid
65 Submissive
66 Annoying insect
67 Fido's reward
68 Domed recess
69 Elevator maker
70 Prudential competitor

Down
1 27th president
2 Clay pot
3 Lifeguard's beat
4 Chased away
5 Tall tales
6 Unit of length
7 Evil ensign
8 Hurled
9 Napped leather
10 Delayed
11 In that case (2 wds.)
12 Warm-water shark
13 Pause fillers
22 Fable
24 Give a home to
26 Yields territory
27 St. Teresa's town
28 Violinist's need
30 Galena or bauxite
31 Worn out
33 Dog days mo.
34 Barroom —
35 Close by
36 Contest submission
38 Galaxy shape
39 Dressed to the —
41 Top-notch pilot
42 Hip-hop music
47 Hooky player
48 Not on board
50 Skip
52 Major artery
53 Baby chick sound
54 Navajo foes
55 Delight in
56 Bangkok native
57 Former JFK arrivals
59 Help a crook
60 Dappled horse
61 Wonder Woman's friend
62 Vocalist — Sumac



Letters

Don't spit where you eat, Apple

RE: "PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF APPLE: CHINA CRAVES FOREIGN BRAND ELECTRONICS" (METRO, JAN. 23) Let me get this straight: Apple uses slave labor in China to produce their products, poorly paid workers can't buy Apple products and now Tim Cook expects China to become its main market in the future. Well, Billionaire Cook could manufacture his Apple products here in the good old U.S.A. and pay his fellow countrymen and women a decent wage and still sell to the Chinese.
DIANE MOORE, VIA E-MAIL

Here's some good summer reading, kids

Every American should be required to read the Constitution and its amendments and every government official elected or appointed to office as our proxy should be required to read and fully understand each article and amendment. How can they take an oath to support and defend a Constitution they do not know? This also includes the Supreme Court. When the Supreme Court itself skews its interpretation, the fallacy becomes law. You'd be surprised how badly the Constitution has been manipulated, especially in the last half century. Every one of us is responsible because in our ignorance, we have blindly allowed it to happen. Abraham Lincoln would turn over in his grave if he knew that seven score and 10 years later, the government of the people, by the people, for the people has already perished from the Earth. **CHARLES COUGHLIN, VIA E-MAIL**

Washington wants YOU for the United States militia

RE: "RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS IS TO PROTECT US, NOT YOURSELF?" (METRO, JAN. 23) Letter writer Mary Raczko needs a crash course: George Washington said, "A free people ought not only to be armed and disciplined, but they should have sufficient arms and ammunition to maintain a status of independence from any who might attempt to abuse them, which would include their own government." The Militia Act of 1792 stated that all white males were by definition members of the militia. Whether or not you support the right to arms, you should at least support the right history of arms.
ANDREW CRISCIONE, VIA E-MAIL

SUDOKU: HARD

			9			6		
	7		2	6		5		
				7	3	1		
2	3						7	
1		7	8		2	3		6
	4						1	2
		2	4	5				
		4		3	8		6	
		9			6			

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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Flyers' tomorrows becoming todays during losing skid

Orange and Black look to snap streak today against Rangers ◗ First-round pick Laughton impressive in tryout ◗ Schenn, Hartnell out

GETTY IMAGES

▶ The Flyers need to make a decision on Laughton after Saturday's game in Florida.

Scott Laughton isn't the only Flyer never to beat the Rangers. But, unlike Sean Couturier, Brayden Schenn, Matt Read and Eric Wellwood, he's never faced them.

After going 0-for-the-season against Henrik Lundqvist and the Broadway gang a year ago, Peter Laviolette's club should be anxious to make amends when they square off tonight. That would be the case even if the Flyers hadn't gotten off to such a wretched start in this truncated 48-game season.

But none of that is on the mind of Laughton. The Flyers' first pick in last June's draft is on a five-game tryout as he attempts to convince the organization he should stick around. Following this one and Saturday's game at Florida, the Flyers must keep him or send him back to Juniors in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada.

In a similar predicament last season, the Flyers decided to keep Couturier. In terms of Laughton, they have liked what they've seen up to this point, an opportunistic player who seems to have a nose for the puck and doesn't mind banging bodies. But with Danny Briere due back soon, there may not be a place for him in the lineup.

"I have no clue," said GM Paul Holmgren. "He's played good and we'll continue to see how he does. It's not like we're waiting to see if he fails. But we don't need to make any quick decisions today."

Perhaps not. But they do need to start winning games. Otherwise, in a season where prolonged slumps can be fatal, it might not be long before there is no tomorrow.

Jon Marks
sports@metro.us

Bad news

- **Brayden Schenn** was suspended for one game and fined $4,703 by the NHL for leaving his feet to hit the Devils' Anton Volchenkov in Tuesday's 3-0 loss.
- **Scott Hartnell** is sidelined indefinitely after suffering a left foot injury, according to GM Paul Holmgren. He was hurt after a Kimmo Timonen shot hit him in Tuesday's game.

Special Fipp

Report: Eagles add Fipp to coaching staff

The Eagles have hired Dave Fipp as special teams coordinator, according to reports.

Fipp, an assistant special teams coach for the Miami Dolphins last season, has known Eagles coach Chip Kelly for 10 years. The Eagles had no comment. The move was first reported by CSNPhilly.com.

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With the early part of the season behind us, the chance to pick up a breakout star off waivers is long gone. Our best bet for a difference-maker now is the Feb. 21 trade deadline:

Do us a Favor

Both Al Jefferson and Paul Millsap are in the final year of their respective contracts. Moving one before the Jazz lose him for nothing is simply logical. It makes even more sense when they have a future star in Derrick Favors waiting in the wings. Although he's playing just 21.6 minutes, Favors is averaging 9.0 points, 6.2 rebounds, 1.5 blocks and 0.9 steals. Imagine what he could do with 30-plus minutes — something he's likely to get starting Feb. 22.

▶ Derrick Favors's official coming out party is only one month away.

Pop goes Pau

The Lakers chose to hire Mike D'Antoni, a coach they know doesn't like to use two true bigs. They had to see this Pau Gasol debacle coming, meaning they should have something up their sleeve. If Pau gets traded, he'll quickly reemerge as a Top 30 option.

Lowry lurking

Kyle Lowry's first season in Toronto has been a disaster as he's fallen behind Jose Calderon. Buy low now. Calderon is far less talented and his contract is up after the season, making him a prime trade candidate. Lowry has Top 10 fantasy upside.

Top hoops adds

1 Earl Clark, PF, Lakers — Mike D'Antoni wants to go small, so Clark is starting at power forward and getting 32-to-34 minutes nightly.

2 Elton Brand, C, Mavs — With Dirk Nowitzki back, Dallas needs a defensive presence that Chris Kaman can't provide.

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Get to know a Phillies prospect: Cody Asche

Future third baseman being groomed on farm Split time in Single-A and Double-A last season Invited to spring training

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Young (above) is a stop-gap player acquired from Texas. Asche could be the starter at third base in 2014.

Ever since Scott Rolen complained his way out of Philly in 2002, third base has been a relative sore spot for the Phillies.

Yes, the Phillies won a World Series and pennant thanks to the great glove/mediocre bat of Pedro Feliz. But the team suffered through a number of years with the oft-injured David Bell (bad back) and Placido Polanco (name a body part).

The Phillies have a one-year stop gap in Michael Young, but it's been a long time since the team has had a young, solid player to call third home. The 2014 Phillies might have such a commodity in Cody Asche. The 22-year-old Missouri native was the Phillies' most talked about minor-league position player until Darin Ruf turned into Albert Pujols last August.

Asche hit .324 with a .849 OPS while splitting time between Single-A Clearwater and Double-A Reading. The former Nebraska Cornhusker was one of seven players asked to take part in the team's annual Prospect Education Program.

The laid-back, fourth-round pick from the 2011 draft is excited about the organization's hope that he can man the hot corner on the horizon.

"I thrive from having these great expectations," Asche said. "When you're in the offseason and it's 10 degrees, and you're in the middle of Missouri, you don't really want to hit or work out. I think that kind of stuff helps drive you."

According to Ruf, a former teammate, Asche puts in the time. He credited his minor-league hitting coaches for his development.

"I give credit to all of the coaches," Asche said. "That's whether it's Hendu [Phillies hitting coach Steve Henderson], or John Mizerock or [Chris] Truby."

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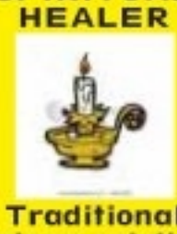

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BLOG

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